

From: Christine Wells <indivisiblechristine@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2022 5:13 PM
To: DES SBCC
Subject: Please adopt the proposed energy code updates!

External Email

Chair Anthony Doan,

I'm writing to urge you and your council to adopt the proposed energy code updates as a way of doing our part to address the climate crisis. This is important to me, as a physician, for many reasons, including:

- Clean energy in our homes and buildings allow us to build sustainably and responsibly. Energy efficient homes are more resilient and cost less to operate once built, while also helping to avert public health and climate costs.
- These code proposals will disincentivize gas cooking, which is harmful to one's health. Gas stoves release unburned methane through leaks even when they are off; research shows that [yearly leaks from all gas stoves in the U.S.](#) could have as much of a climate impact as emissions from 500,000 passenger vehicles. WOW!
- People spend up to 90% of their lives indoors. And yet, indoor air is estimated by the EPA to be two to five times more polluted than outdoor air. An estimated [\\$110 million dollars in health impacts annually](#) can be attributed to burning fossil fuels in commercial buildings in Washington. The proposed code changes would allow more efficient sources to heat our buildings while not negatively impacting air quality.
- Research shows buildings are also the [primary cause of combustion pollution-related early deaths in Washington state](#) due to their contributions to air pollution (PM2.5 and ozone).
- Children in homes with gas stoves have a [42 percent increased risk of asthma symptoms](#)
- Communities who are suffering worst from pollution — often low-income, communities of color, and linguistically-isolated people — [have higher risks of death from particle pollution](#), in part due to the historical impacts of redlining that have led communities of color to be pushed to live in places with greater exposure to air pollution.
- Addressing fossil fuel use in homes is crucial for local governments to meet climate commitments, protect community health and safety, lower costs for builders and tenants, and create a green energy economy that will spur the creation of high-road jobs.
- Transitioning homes and buildings to clean electric heating, water heating and cooking can sustain a significant workforce over many years.

We are counting on your leadership to do the right thing for all Washingtonians.

Sincerely,

Christine R Wells, MD